

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 04862 071317Z
ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05
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FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1745

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E.O.11652: NA
TAGS: PINT PINR PBIO TS
SUBJ: BIOGRAPHIC : FERID SOUDANI, TUNISIAN
AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO SYRIA

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. CAREER HIGHLIGHTS: FERID SOUDANI, WHO RECENTLY PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT ASSAD, HAS ALTERNATED CAREERS IN NEWSPAPER ADMINISTRATION AND IN DIPLOMACY. HIS LAST POSTING WAS AS AMBASSADOR TO THE IVORY COAST; ALSO ACCREDITED TO CAMEROONS, NIGER, BENIN, GHANA, TOGO, AND UPPER VOLTA. BETWEEN 1968 AND 1972, HE SERVED CONCURRENTLY AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNION OF AFRICAN PRESS AGENCIES AS WELL AS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF TUNIS AFRIQUE PRESSE, GOT OFFICIAL NEWS BUREAU. IN 1966/67, HE SERVED AN ABBREVIATED TOUR AS AMBASSADOR TO MOROCCO. SOUDANI'S EARLY CAREER WAS MARKED BY THE DIRECTORSHIP OF AL AMAL (THE PARTY ARABIC-LANGUAGE JOURNAL); HE WAS THE FOUNDER AND FIRST DIRECTOR OF THE GOVERNMENTPRINT-MEDIA DISTRIBUTION AGENCY (STD); AND HE WAS A CODIRECTOR OF THE STATE SECRETARIAT FOR ORIENTATION AND INFORMATION (NOE: MINISTRY OF INFORMATION). OVER MUCH OF HIS CAREER, HE HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN THE PARTI SOCIALISTE

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DESTOURIEN (PSD).

2. PERSONAL: FERID SOUDANI WAS BORN IN THE CAPITAL 14, SEPTEMBER, 1930. HIS SECONDARY EDUCATION WAS AT TUNIS' PRESTIGIOUS SADIKI COLLEGE. HE TOOK HIS DEGREES FROM THE FACULTIES OF LAW AND OF LITERATURE IN PARIS. THE AMBASSADOR IS MARRIED. HIS LANGUAGE CAPA-

BILITIES, BEYOND ARABIC AND FRENCH, ARE UNKNOWN.
END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. COMMENT: SOUDANI
ALWAYS HAS MAINTAINED A MARKEDLY LOW PROFILE WHEN IN
TUNIS. FEW IF ANY EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE MADE HIS PER-
SONAL ACQUAINTANCE OVER THE SPAN OF HIS CAREER. HE
WAS PROTEGE OF BAHI LADGHAM, A POPULAR FORMER FOREIGN
MINISTER WHO WAS FORCED OUT OF THE GOVERNMENT IN 1973.
IN ABIDJAN, SOUDANI WAS KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN OVERTLY
CRITICAL OF HIS OWN PRESIDENT: AT A MEETING WITH THE
AMERICAN AMBASSADOR, HE DREW INVIDIOUS COMPARISONS BE-
TWEEN THE OUSTER OF SELASSIE AND THE PERMANENCE OF
BOURGUIBA.
MULCAHY

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PINT, PINR, PDIP, TS, (SOUDANI, FERID)
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